MS. A.1.72

Leicester Mss. Aug 7. 1859.

Jane Walsh

My dear Mr. May, We do not hear of your arrival in England yet; but presume you are there before this. I hope you will find it, or make it, pofible to remain in England long enough to make your mark there. 'Twould be a source of lasting regret to us all, and I am sure it would be to our English friends, and equally I think to yourself to leave England without your word of testimony, - loud, strong, & clear. So many false American ministers have been there, that it will be almost insupportable to have the few true friends of humanity silent. I trust you have received the long letter I wrote you, enclosing documents, wherein I told you what Philip Carpenter said of you making yourself at home, both with the Unitarians and with the antislavery people, both of whom, he avered, are ready to give you the R. H. of F. in the fullest manner, and extend to you a hospitality which will leave you few offenses of necefsity. Three months in England will be little enough. Pray don't lose this most golden opportunity; and, having enjoyed so much, and, we joyfully believe, recruited so much, on the Continent, enjoy 10 fold more, among those of kindred blood & soul, in speaking forth that which was necefsarily unspoken there. —

Father's & Mother's Golden Wedding was as delightful an occasion, as it was rare. Some 5 or 6 poetical contributions came in - all quite unexpected. Theo. Parker sent one. Mr. Sanborn, of Concord, sent one - a gem, & the best of all. Mr. Pierpont furnished one. My brother John quite out did himself in some lines, commemorating the leading events of their history. In 2 of the pieces, you & Mr. Parker, were referred to, with more cordial good wishes than the Alumni of the Divinity School were willing to express, 3 weeks since, in Theo. Parker's case. O. B. Frothingham has rebuked

them well for their unmanly and unchristian behaviour. — Your son Joseph was at the "Golden Wedding" — he spent a few days with us previously, and was subsequently at Phillips's Beach, as you doubtless know. Some 300 people called on Father & Mother, that day. But, amidst our rejoicings, we were afflicted and sad — our dear, good Cousin Louisa Davenport Wigglesworth lay dead, and her funeral was attended the next day. She was very sincerely mourned, for she had many who loved her very warmly. So that branch of our family is entirely gone.

We have had 2 excellent & very pleasant letter from Edward, reporting his safe arrival at Cowes, &c. He was to pursue his voyage farther. His health good.

There is quite a party of our folks at North Conway, N. H. Mr. & Mrs. Greele are among the number. About a fortnight since, Mr. Greele made a mis-step, & fell from the house-piazza, sprained & bruised one of his legs very badly, so as to be compelled to keep bed or couch all the time. He fainted away from the pain, & the people were greatly alarmed. I believe he is comfortable now. — Father, & Mother, & my sister Mary and her children are there. —

The news of Horace Mann's death will not be more sudden to you, than it was to people generally here. We had no forewarning. What man in all the West could have been so great a loss! What a quantity of Tom Corwins, and Judge McLeans, and even Salmon P. Chases, could have been better spared. I have not yet learned what was the matter with him.

The Slave Trade, between the African Coast and our Southern States, is now in full career. Cargoes in numbers are landed on the Florida coast — such is the information we are almost daily receiving, and it appears entirely to be relied upon. With best love, in which Sarah and Abby join, Affectionately, Yours Sam'l May Jr.

I hope you will not fail to meet with Richard D. Webb, of 176 Brunswick St. Dublin.